

[Mr. Bernard E. Squires]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio St.

DATE December 9, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

1. Name and address of informant Mr. Bernard E. Squires. 2213 lake Street.
2. Date and time of interview December 9, 1938. 11:30 to [12:30?]
3. Place of interview In the office of the Urban League.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant No one.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
No one.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

As the interview was made in the office of the Urban League, worker will make the description of the office.

The office is in the north - west wing of the building with the office of the Industrial and office Secretary nearby. The office contains the usual office furniture of desk, chairs, files, and books. It is usually clean and well kept. It has very good light with two large windows on the north side of the building, and the regulation light in the center of the room. The Urban League-Community Center is in the building of the old Webster Telephone

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Exchange and although serving its purpose as substitute for the Center building, it is by no means adequate.

The building contains a library, gymnasium or rather a substitute for a gym., club rooms, a kitchen and a fair sized auditorium.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Fred Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio St.

DATE December 9, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. Bernard E. Squires

1. Ancestry Negro-Indian-Irish.
2. Place and date of birth Toledo Ohio - 1904.
3. Family Family consist of Mr. Squires, Wife-Melvina, and three children.
4. Place and date of birth Wife was born in Cleveland Ohio and the children in Cleveland and Minneapolis.
5. Education, with dates—University Of Toledo 1930. -B.A.
University of Ohio State 1927 to 1929
High School in the city of Toledo
Grade School in the city of Toledo.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates
1930-1931 - Cleveland Settlement house-Director of Boys Work-Summer Camp.

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1931 —- Cleveland Humane Society—Child placement worker.

1932—Cedar Avenue Branch Y.M.C. *Cleveland Ohio.

7. Special skills and interests [1933 Phyllis Wheatley-Minneapolis*]

Is quite interested in Handicraft. Men and Boys worker.

[1935 - Omaha Urban League*]

Is very interested in the Welfare of his race.

8. Community and religious activities

Mr. Squires is a member of the Catholic Church. He is very active in Community activities.

9. Description of informant

Mr. Squires is about 6 ft. tall about 180 lbs. well built. He is light brown-skinned has brown eyes, black hair, and wears a moustache. He is very intelligent looking and speaks with a very precise English.

10. Other points gained in interview

I gained a very good insight into the life of Mr. Squires and I am better able to understand him.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2889 Ohio St.

DATE December 9, 1938 SUBJECT Negro History

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. Bernard E. Squires 2213 Lake St.

I was born in Toledo Ohio in 1904, one of three children. My Father Ira G. a native of Ohio, was engaged in newspaper work, and publication. He also was engaged in politics, as he served for several years as the Engrossing Clerk for the Legislature. My mother Anna Johnson Squires, was a native of Alabama.

I attended Grade and High school in Toledo, and for eleven quarters attended Ohio State University. Due to the necessity of an operation I left school and returned to Toledo. I decided to remain there and attended the University of Toledo, graduating from there in 1930. Incidentally while attending the University of Toledo, I was elected to the Student Council, being the first Negro to be so honored.

My first position after graduating from school was in Cleveland, where I was chosen to serve as an assistant in Boys Work in the Settlement House, or Community Center. I was also in charge of all summer camping activities. My next position was with the Cleveland Humane Society, a child placement bureau, where I was a welfare worker dealing with all Negro problems. Here to I was the first Negro to be so employed by the humane Society. While working in Cleveland I attended the Graduate School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University for one year. I next entered into Y.M.C.A. work, as a Boys Work Secretary at the Cedar Ave. branch of the Y. I had previous experience in Y work, while attending Toledo University, so it was an easy step back into this field. After two years in the Y I left to take a position as Resident Director of Men and Boys work at the Phyllis Wheatley Home in Minneapolis, Minnesota. where I remained until my appointment to the Omaha Urban League in 1935.

I was married in 1932 to Melvina Ann Lomax, a Social worker in the city of Cleveland, and we have three children.

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I am a member of the American Academy of Social Science; National and State Social Conferences; member of the National Advisory Committee of the Flash Publishing Co.; and on the Advisory Council of the State Federal Writers. I am also a member of the Catholic Church and of the [Alpha?] Phi Alpha fraternity.